



**EXPERIMENTAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA**

GRAMMAR REQUIREMENTS FOR LEVEL C1

This publication has made use of the [English Grammar Profile](#). This resource is based on extensive research using the Cambridge Learner Corpus and is part of the English Profile programme, which aims to provide evidence about language use that helps to produce better language teaching materials.

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ADJECTIVES

COMBINING

FORM: COMPOUND ADJECTIVES

Can use a wide range of compound adjectives ('open-minded', 'above-mentioned', 'well-to-do', 'jaw-dropping')

Corrected Learner Examples

I would describe myself as an easy-going and open-minded person.

...we suggest investing a certain amount of money in the above-mentioned technical devices in order to achieve the financial target.

But as she does not live in a well-to-do family, Ola was never able to afford additional private lessons, for example.

If anyone has ever seen it, they would agree with me that it was THE most jaw-dropping road in the world.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I would describe myself as an easy-going and open-minded person who doesn't find it difficult to talk about everything with everybody even with strangers.

Considering that our business is booming we suggest to invest a certain amount of money in the above-mentioned technical devices in order to achieve the financial target which is to increase our gross profit by 10%.

But as she does not live in a well-to-do family – she is half an orphan – Ola was never able to afford additional private lessons for example.

If anyone has ever seen it, they would agree with me that it was THE most jaw-dropping road in the world.

MODIFYING

FORM: WITH EXTREME ADVERBS

Can modify gradable adjectives with extreme adverbs of degree ('absolutely', 'extremely', 'incredibly', 'totally') to intensify their meaning.

Corrected Learner Examples

I am absolutely sure that it will attract even more attention.

Nowadays, it is extremely difficult to imagine how workers lived ten years ago, especially because of the incredibly fast evolution in technology.

I would make a totally new programme, in which the following points must be improved: ...

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I am absolutely sure that it will attract even more attention.

Nowadays, it is extremely difficult to imagine how lived workers ten years ago, especially because of the incredibly fast evolution in technology.

In my opinion, I would make a totally new programme, in which the next points must be improved: make sure the hotel is really a luxurious one and with a good service; include real English food restaurants; get the best places for theatre or opera; don't program so much free time; prepare extra events in case of emergency.

POSITION

FORM: PAST PARTICIPLE AS ADJECTIVE

Can use the '-ed' form of a verb as an adjective, after a noun.

Corrected Learner Examples

First of all, I would recommend providing a wider range of films and introducing discussions after each film shown.

It is believed that if some improvements are made, the club will live up to the high standards required.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

First of all, I would recommend providing wider ranpe of the films and introducing discussions after each film shown.

It is believed that if some improvements apply, the club will live up to the high standards required.

SUPERLATIVES

FORM/USE: WITH NOUN AND POSTMODIFIER

Can use a postmodifier to make the superlative stronger in the structure superlative + postmodifier + noun.

Corrected Learner Examples

What is more, in order to increase sales of the new model to the highest possible level, the possibility of entering the Asian markets should be considered.

I am fond of the idea of working in Central London. It absolutely is the best possible location , I cannot deny that.

It is not the shortest possible route, but the easiest for people with luggage.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

What is more, in order to increase sales of the new model to the highest possible level, the possiblity of entering the Asian markets should be considered.

It absolutely is the best possible location, I cannot deny that.

It is not the shortest possible route, but the easiest for people with luggage.

Comments

Useful teaching point: There are no examples of ever + noun in the CLC. e.g. 'The highest ever result' even at C2. In the CIC native speakers use noun + ever four times more than 'ever' + noun.

FORM/USE: WITH POSTMODIFIER AND NOUN

Can use a postmodifier to make the superlative stronger, in the structure superlative + noun + postmodifier ('possible', 'ever', 'by far').

Corrected Learner Examples

... we want to present ourselves in the best way possible.

...this cleansing gel will definitely produce good results in the shortest time possible.

Achieving health by using her common sense and having fun while doing it is probably her greatest performance ever and, if elected, she could share that with the world.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Another main reason for us being such generous givers is that we want to present ourselves in the best way possible.

...this cleansing gel that will definitely produce good results in the shortest time possible.

Achieving health by using her common sense and having fun while doing it, is probably her greatest performance ever and if elected she could share that with the world.

ADVERBS

ADVERB PHRASES – FORM

FORM/USE: ADVERB + 'ENOUGH'

Can post-modify adverbs with 'enough to intensify'.

Corrected Learner Examples

Surprisingly enough, Meal's management was very responsive.

Sadly enough, I wasn't able to find any job proposals for us myself, so I'll just have to speculate on the results of your work.

Luckily enough, we have a garden where we can cook over an open fire, and as the temperatures in June are rather enjoyable here in Sweden, it actually works.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Surprisingly enough , Meal's management was very responsive.

Sadly enough, I wasn't able to find any job proposals for us myself, so, shamefully, I'll just have to speculate on the results of your work.

Luckily enough, we have a garden where we can cook over an open fire, and as the temperatures in June are rather enjoyable here in Sweden, it actually works.

Comments

Note the emergence of post-modification patterns at C1.

FORM/USE: ADVERBS + PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES, HIGHLIGHT

Can post-modify adverbs with a complex prepositional phrase complement, to highlight information.

Corrected Learner Examples

Luckily for you, I kept notes on everything we did, so I proudly present to you the top 4 of our course-days.

Unfortunately for some of them, the "holiday of their dreams" turned out to be rather nightmarish.

Especially in the period of 1999-2001, it shot up from 5 points to 7 points.

Probably in the next ten or more years, the engineering profession will be as much respected as it used to be twenty years ago.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Luckily for you, I kept notes on everything we did, so I proudly present you the top 4 of our course-days.

Unfortunately for some of them the "holiday of their dreams" turned out to be rather nightmarish.

Especially for people like me from other cities it would make it easier to find the centre if you would include a small map into the packet.

Especially in the period of 1999-2001, it shop up from 5 points to 7 points.

Probably in the next ten or more years profession of an engineer will be as much respected as it used to be twenty years ago.

Comments

Note the emergence of post-modification patterns at C1.

FORM: ADVERB + ADVERB

Can modify a wide range of adverbs with other adverbs.

Corrected Learner Examples

Even the beautiful, attractive cover and the extra Audio CD aren't enough to justify the slightly higher price, especially because the value of this game will drop extremely rapidly.

Firstly, we should get some TV airtime, to catch the attention of a large number of people effectively and achieve a substantial market penetration relatively quickly.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Even the beautiful, attractive cover and the extra Audio CD arent enough to justify the slightly lower price (21 £ at Dixon's), especially because the value of this game will drop extremely rapidly.

Firstly, we should air some TV spots, catching the attention of a large number of people effectively and we achieving a substantial market penetration relatively quickly.

Comments

By C1, we see some development, for example, 'perfectly well', 'extremely well', 'relatively quickly', but not much (cf. C1 entry). Note, we predict a greater range in spoken data, particularly in intensifiers

ADVERBS AND ADVERB PHRASES: TYPES AND MEANINGS

FORM: DEGREE, MODIFYING ADVERBS

Can use an increasing range of degree adverbs to modify a range of adverb types. ► adjectives
► adverb phrases: form

Corrected Learner Examples

The attitude of young people today towards keeping fit and healthy has almost completely changed.

Moreover, making use of some techniques I practised in the How to Negotiate classes is something which happens to me quite frequently.

The mobile market is growing incredibly fast in Britain and your company is leading this process.

Recently, the charity organised a fun-raising day, which went reasonably well.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

The attitude of young people today, towards keeping fit and healthy has almost completely changed.

Moreover, making use of some techniques I practised in the How to Negotiate classes, is something which happens to me quite frequently.

The mobile market is growing incredibly fast in Britain and that your company is leading this process.

Starting at sold units of 10M, then falling slightly down to 9M units, they finally peaked at 11 million units.

FORM: DEGREE, MODIFYING COMPARATIVES

Can use degree adverbs ('slightly', 'a bit', 'much') to modify comparatives.

Corrected Learner Examples

My Spanish is slightly more fluent than my English, because I lived in Spain longer than in England.

It will be a bit more expensive than the bus but it's safer and quicker.

Despite all the controversies between these two generations, the grandchildren shouldn't forget that their grandparents are much more experienced.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

My Spanish is slightly more fluent than my English, because I lived in Spaine longer than in England.

It will be a bit more expensive than the bus but it's safer and quicker.

Despite all the controversies between these two generations, the grandchildren shouldn't forget that their grandparents are much more experienced.

ADVERBS AS MODIFIERS

USE: CERTAINTY

Can use a wide range of adverbs to indicate degrees of certainty.

Corrected Learner Examples

It was undoubtedly an unforgettable experience.

Television programmes are undeniably a way of keeping ourselves well-informed and open to a special knowledge of every aspect of our lives.

I bought a skirt, a pair of jeans and a white dress, because I absolutely need new clothes for your party!

USE: DEGREE, WITH ADJECTIVES

Can use a wide range of adverbs with adjectives to express degree or intensity.

Corrected Learner Examples

It deals with the friendship between two completely different men.

It is extremely important that the project is finished before September.

The last thing I would like to mention is that you have lost a single passenger's luggage three times, which is totally unacceptable.

USE: STANCE

Can use a wide range of stance adverbs (simply, truly, surely, apparently, naturally, surprisingly, inevitably, literally, exceptionally, frankly, clearly, amazingly, wisely, admittedly) to indicate an attitude or viewpoint, often in clause initial position.

Corrected Learner Examples

Obviously everybody has the right to be on a strike.

We can't truly blame ourselves for this unlucky beginning.

Apparently someone made a mistake writing the details I gave over the phone.

Naturally, I inclined towards the second option.

Luckily for me, I stayed with a kind and helpful host family but they lived four miles from the school.

CLAUSES

COMPARATIVES

FORM: SUPERLATIVE ADVERB 'BEST' + CLAUSE

Can use 'the best' as a superlative adverb + pronoun + ellipped 'can' or 'could'.

Corrected Learner Examples

I'm sorry to say that she is not the best of cooks but she tries the best she can.

On Thursday I did the best I could.

However, to make sure that we offer the best we can, we would be grateful if you gave us a grant.

Comments

Most instances follow the form [verb] + 'the best' + [pronoun] + ['can/could'] (main verb ellipped)

CONDITIONAL

FORM/USE: 'IF' + 'SHOULD', FORMAL, POLITE

Can form subordinate conditional clauses with 'if you should', in polite, formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

If you should have any concerns about my choice, please tell me.

If you should have any problems, you can go to an information booth and you will be told which train you have to take to Hassau.

If you should get lost, don't hesitate to call us.

If you should have any further questions do not hesitate to contact us.

Comments

Many but not all main clauses which follow 'if' + 'should' are imperatives, particularly in business contexts.

FORM/USE: 'IF' + PAST PERFECT + MODAL VERBS IMAGINED SITUATION, REGRET

Can form conditional subordinate clauses with if + the past perfect simple and modal verb + 'have' + '-ed' in the main clause, to talk about imagined situations in the past, often with regret.

Corrected Learner Examples

All this could have been avoided, if the plan had been more flexible.

Several statements in the newspaper could have been avoided, if the writer had taken notice of the income results which were sent along with the other facts from the charity day.

However, I think I could have learned more if more individual tuition had been available.

I wrote this article referring to my own experience in London, hence I might have had a different opinion if I had gone to another city or country.

Comments

could have +-ed is the most frequent form in the main clause after would have + -ed. There are very few examples with might have + -ed|Note on punctuation: many grammar books stress that when the if clause precedes the main clause, it must use a comma. We cannot establish a consistent competency for this (and punctuation in general). It seems too idiosyncratic. L1 can be a skewing factor

FORM: ELLIPTED 'IF' CLAUSE

Can form ellipted 'if' clauses with 'if' + '-ed' form.

Corrected Learner Examples

Furthermore I found little rooms where an employee could take a short nap if needed.

Meals are served, if requested, three times a day, unless picnic lunches are needed.

Women who want to start a career more often decide to be single or, if married, don't devote much time to the family.

FORM: INVERTED CONDITIONAL CLAUSE, 'SHOULD'

Can introduce a conditional subordinate clause with 'should' + inverted subject.

Corrected Learner Examples

Should you require any further information about the program or any other detail please do not hesitate to ask for it.

Should there be a lack of mutual understanding a break-up is unavoidable.

COORDINATED

FORM/USE: 'NOT ONLY ... BUT (ALSO)' WITH INVERSION, FOCUS

Can combine clauses using 'not only' in front position followed by an inverted first clause + ... 'but (also)' to introduce the second clause, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

And not only did they come for the most popular sports, such as football and basketball, but many other less known activities were very well attended.

Not only was he helpful but the students had the opportunity to watch videos and listen to music.

Not only has the cost improved, but also the value for money.

IMPERATIVES

FORM/USE: 'LET' + THIRD PERSON PRONOUN, PERMISSION, ORDER

Can use an imperative clause with 'let' + 'him/her/them' + base form of a main verb, to give permission or allow something or instruct someone to allow something.

Corrected Learner Examples

Try to play chess with him whenever you can and remember: Let him win!

While in London, they want to do their shopping there, so let them have more free time to do that.

If she wants to study away from home, please, let her go.

FORM/USE: DON'T 'LET' + PRONOUN, PERMISSION, ORDER

Can use an imperative clause with 'let' + 'him/her/them' + base form of a main verb, to disallow something or instruct someone to disallow something.

Corrected Learner Examples

Don't let them spend all their free time in front of the TV.

Don't let him go out alone, because he may not feel well.

FORM/USE: IMPERATIVE + 'AND' CONDITIONAL

Can use imperatives to introduce a condition followed by 'and' to introduce a consequence of the condition.

Corrected Learner Examples

See one of them and you'll want to see them all.

USE: POINTING, IN FORMAL CONTEXTS

Can use imperatives to point within or to a document within formal contexts, often academic.

Corrected Learner Examples

See enclosed brochure.

As you requested in your memo, I have spent the past few days gathering information from the six students involved in our programme (see above).

Look at the graph of the Agricultural sector 1991–2001.

SUBORDINATED

FORM/USE: 'NOT' + '-ING' CLAUSE

Can use a non-finite clause, introduced by 'not' + '-ing', to give more information.

Corrected Learner Examples

*Not knowing the North of London very well it took me quite a long time to get there.
A nine-member family living peacefully in 19th-century England is suddenly shocked by the untimely death of the mother. Not having accepted his wife's death, the father, George, deeply depressed, is left alone to raise his seven children.*

FORM/USE: INVERSION

Can introduce a subordinate clause with inverted 'should/had/were' + subject + verb, in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

*Should you need any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me.
Had we known that before we could have taken more money with us.
Were I able to travel to any place and time, I would probably choose the Greece of more than two thousand years ago.*

FORM/USE: NON-FINITE WITH '-ED' CLAUSES, FOCUS

Can use a non-finite subordinate clause with an '-ed' form, before a main clause, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

*Compared to the campsite job this one has its advantages.
Based on the assessment above, I strongly recommend that we should take some action to improve the store.
Given all the inconveniences explained above I expect compensation from your company and if I do not hear from you within ten days I will have to contact my solicitors and take further steps.
Based in Zurich with departments all over Europe we reach almost 150 million people.*

Comments

There are examples of this pattern at B2 but they are predominantly business. Note that 'compared to' is a chunk that can be learnt as a unit.

FORM: NON-FINITE AFTER 'IF'

Can use non-finite clauses after 'if'. ► 'clauses: conditionals'

Corrected Learner Examples

*Please do not hesitate to ask for further assistance if needed.
Finally, there are some suggestions that, if taken, could improve the schools' academic standards.
There are plenty of taxis, of course, but they are very expensive, if compared with London taxis.*

Comments

This is usually followed with an ellipted clause. There is a sharp increase in this structure at C1 but enough evidence to put it here.

CONJUNCTIONS

COORDINATING

FORM/USE: 'NOT ONLY ... BUT ALSO'

Can use 'not only ... but also' to combine phrases and clauses, often for focus or emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

This book is not only a guide to the history of music but also a compendium of theory.

In addition to that, if we move to the new premises, we can not only solve the above problems, but also gain other benefits such as a better environment.

If we go back in time we will see that the difference between the old and the modern films is not only the number produced but also the content.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

This book is not only a guide of the History of Music but also a compendium of theory as it includes subjects as Harmony, Accustics or information on instruments.

In addition to that, if we move to the new premises, we can not only solve the above problems, but also gain other benefits such as better environment.

If we go back in time we will see that the difference between the old and the modern films, it not only in the number of their production but also the content.

FORM/USE: 'NOT ONLY ... BUT ALSO' WITH INVERSION

Can use inverted auxiliary 'do' + the subject after 'not only', to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Indeed, not only did they teach us useful knowledge, but they also organised practical exercises to ensure that we had assimilated all the information.

Furthermore, not only do I speak (and write) in fluent English, but I also speak French, Spanish and Portuguese.

For me, not only do extreme sports provide satisfaction of achievement, but they also help you to express yourself.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Indeed, not only did they teach us useful knowledge, but they also organised practical exercices to assure that we had assimilated all the information given.

Furthermore, not only do I speak (and write) influent English, but I also speak French, Spanish and Portuguese.

For me, not only do extreme sports provide satisfaction for your achievement, but they also help you to express yourself.

FORM/USE: 'YET', CONCESSIVE

Can use '(and) yet' to combine phrases and clauses to introduce a contrast, often unexpected.

Corrected Learner Examples

In the face of these recent events, our department also reviewed the contract with ProLine International, and found some interesting yet unpleasant details.

This college is famous for its art teachers and very skilled students, and yet it does not have its own gallery.

The host family was carefully selected, yet it was four miles away from school.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

In the face of these recent events, our department also reviewed the contract with ProLine International, and found some interesting, yet unplasant details.

This college is famous for it art teachers and very skilled students and yet it does not have its own gallery.

In spite of the fact that the host family was carefully selected yet it was four miles away from school.

FORM: 'EITHER ... OR'

Can use 'either ... or' to combine more complex strings of clauses and sentences.

Corrected Learner Examples

And finally, about the present, you have two options; either you get something typical from your country, which they may like because you know how much they like collecting things from all over the world, or I get something from the wedding list store and sent it to them with your name on it and we can sort it out when you arrive here.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

And finally, about the present, you have two options; either you get something typical from your country, which they may like because you know how much they like collecting things from all over the world, or I get something from the wedding list store and sent it to them with your name on it and we can sort it out when you arrive here.

SUBORDINATING

FORM/USE: FOCUS

Can use 'whatever', 'wherever', 'however', etc. as a subordinating conjunction, at the beginning of a sentence, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Whatever you choose, you'll probably have to share it with other people.

Whatever the cause of the fall in the standard of your services is, we would strongly recommend that you take all the necessary measures to make sure that this won't happen again.

Wherever you go, you find shops, hotels and pubs which are full of tourists.

Whoever we appoint, he/she should be a well-qualified, educated and flexible person.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Whatever you choose, you'll probably have to share it with other people.

Whatever the cause of the fall in the standard of your services is, we would strongly recommend that you take all the necessary measures to make sure that this won't happen again.

Wherever you go, you find shops, hotels and pubs, which are full of tourists.

Whoever we appoint, he/she should be a well qualified, educated and flexible person.

DETERMINERS

POSSESSIVES

FORM: 'ONE'S'

Can use 'one's' to indicate possession, referring to people in general.

Corrected Learner Examples

Living in Greece, I have had a chance to realise how much tourism can affect one's life.

After one has spent enough time away from one's parents and has a personality of one's own, it is definitely possible to move in with one's parents.

In my opinion, this process depends on one's ability to open another way of communicating apart from one's mother language.

QUANTITY

FORM: 'EITHER', 'NEITHER' + 'OF' + DETERMINER WITH PLURAL NOUNS

Can use 'either' and 'neither' + 'of' with plural noun phrases or pronouns.► pronouns

Corrected Learner Examples

Either of the measures is recommended and those measures are bound to enhance the company's competitive power.

Of course if you are not at all interested in sports, neither of these games will be of any interest to you.

However, you forgot to add that neither of us could foresee the rise in the price of wheat.

FORM: 'EITHER', 'NEITHER' WITH SINGULAR NOUNS

Can use 'either' and 'neither' with singular nouns.

Corrected Learner Examples

Second, we would draw your attention to the fact that neither party could foresee or predict the recent rise in the price of wheat.

In the Czech Republic, somewhere between those two extremes, either way is possible.

This way, the toilet can be accessed easily from either floor.

Comments

Note that these determiners can be used with singular nouns only.

USE: HYPERBOLE

Can use determiners in hyperbole, often in informal contexts ('millions of', 'loads of', 'tons of').

Corrected Learner Examples

My kitchen is absolutely cramped. I love cooking and despite the fact that I have no space, I managed to fit in a table as well as millions of cookbooks and all the necessary kitchen tools. I'm going to make loads of cookies this year and will give them in nice little boxes to my family and friends.

I received tons of plastic ducks every time I had my birthday or some kind of celebration.

DISCOURSE MARKERS

DISCOURSE MARKERS IN WRITING

FORM/USE: TEXTUAL REFERENCE

Can use a range of phrases as discourse markers to point to other parts of a text.

Corrected Learner Examples

As mentioned above, it might be possible to negotiate better contracts for your company.

I hope this brief note has convinced you to start this club. As mentioned earlier, I have already asked for information.

So as shown above, I recommend TELECARS to be our car services supplier because it offers all we need.

Comments

As mentioned above/below etc. occurs only 5 times at B1, 35 times at B2 but mostly German speakers. There are no examples of As previously mentioned at C1 and only 1 at C2.

FOCUS

FOCUS

FORM/USE: 'WH-'CLEFT CLAUSE, TITLES

Can use 'Wh-'cleft clauses as titles or subtitles, to point to something that follows, for focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Why I think this is a good idea

People are sensitive, and when they hear about charities, they always want to help.

Why you should choose that event

If you fund this event, you will gain in two ways: firstly you will help needy people, and secondly you will be admired.

The aim of this is to find out why our biggest customer stopped purchasing from our company.

How I investigated. First I started looking on the internet in general.

How we could benefit in terms of sales

This drink will be taken by athletes of any kind.

FORM/USE: 'WHAT' CLEFT CLAUSE

Can use 'What' + noun or pronoun + verb phrase as subject + 'be', for focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

What we need is a strong publicity campaign, directed at young people.

What everyone loved were the special effects and we were very impressed by the use of advanced technological innovations.

What companies care about is money and football players help them to earn it.

What tourists want is to see the most typical things in England, not a hamburger restaurant or a London musical from the back row in the gallery.

What students learn are mostly facts and theories.

What I found particularly fascinating about this story is that it is still exciting and thrilling, despite the plot being rather easy to follow.

FORM/USE: FIXED EXPRESSIONS, FRONTING

Can use fixed expressions in the front position for focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

At the end of the day everything is up to you!

All in all, the activity week was a nice experience for both students and teachers.

All things considered, I would recommend the third proposal as it seems to me that it covers most of the points the students have been complaining about.

When it comes down to it, who does not like such a surprise?

When you think about it, can we afford a flat in Central London and still have something left with a basic salary?

Comments

Note prepositional phrases are used in a literal sense from A2 (e.g. 'In my house', 'there will be a party'). By C1, there is widespread use of fixed expressions, many of which are prepositional phrases, being used non-literally for focus.

FORM/USE: IMPERATIVES

Can use imperatives as pointing devices within texts for focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Note the disadvantages of this transfer.

Notice the difference in the salary.

See the written instructions on the phone for complete instruction.

FORM/USE: NON-FINITE WITH '-ED' CLAUSES

Can use a non-finite subordinate clause with an '-ed' form, before a main clause, for focus, often in formal, academic or business contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Compared to other European capitals, there has been a lot done to make riding a bike less dangerous and more comfortable in Berlin.

Outlined below are some essential reasons which justify my choice and should be seriously considered.

FUTURE

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

USE: EXPECTATIONS WITH 'MIGHT' OR 'MAY'

Can use the future continuous with 'might' or 'may' to talk about an event or activity potentially in progress at a specified or understood time in the future.

Corrected Learner Examples

As far as I'm concerned, we should definitely do some additional publicity, particularly for the new offerings which might be coming up.

For example, your boss may be calling at 10 pm asking you to prepare a report for next day's meeting.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

As far as I'm concerned, we should definitely do some additional publicity, particularly for the new offerings which might be coming up.

For example, your boss may be calling at 10 pm asking you to prepare a report for next day's meeting.

FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE

FORM: WITH ADVERBS

Can use the future perfect with adverbs (in the normal mid-position).

Corrected Learner Examples

If you have ever read a fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen you will surely have discovered why this man is so famous worldwide.

However, sales will possibly have fallen to 5000 units again by the end of the year.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

If you have ever readen a fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen you will surely have discovered why this man is so famous worldwide.

However, sales will possibly have fallen to 5000 units again by the end of the year.

USE: ASSUMPTIONS

Can use the future perfect simple with 'will' to make assumptions about the present, particularly with 'you'.

Corrected Learner Examples

As you will have heard, this year's work experience programme in Britain was in general a success.

All of this is because her book will have included the cultural traditions that go with the dishes.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

As you will have heard, this year's work experience programme in Britain was in general a succes.

All of this, is because her book will have included the cultural traditions that go with the dishes.

USE: POLITENESS

Can use the future perfect simple with 'will' as a politeness strategy, often in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

[from a formal letter] I hope I will have reassured you.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I hope I will have reassured you.

Comments

This is very low frequency in the learner data.

FUTURE SIMPLE (WITH WILL AND SHALL)

FORM: NEGATIVE 'SHALL'

Can use the negative form 'shall not'.

Corrected Learner Examples

However, we shall not forget to mention the legal and social consequences of such a merger to the average employees.

Therefore, my client shall not release you from the agreement, which is binding upon both parties.

Comments

There are only 2 occurrences of 'shan't' in the whole of the CLC, one at B1 and one at C2, therefore this form has been omitted. It may be more a feature of spoken data.

FUTURE WITH BE GOING TO

FORM: WITH ADVERBS

Can use 'be' + 'going to' with an increasing range of adverbs (particularly adverbs of certainty) in the normal mid position.

Corrected Learner Examples

Mario Soares is already an old man, nearly 70, who is probably going to finish his active political life in 2 or 3 years.

As the new store is going to be the first and only one in Moscow, and, to make matters worse, it is going to be located close to our most successful outlet, it is undoubtedly going to have a detrimental effect on our company.

Additionally, many British people stay at "Tall Trees Campsite", so I guess we would be forced to speak English all the time, which is also great because it is surely going to help us to improve our English skills.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Mario Soares is already an old man, nearly 70, who is probably going to finish his active political life in 2 or 3 years.

As the new store is going to be the first and only one in Moscow, and, to make matters worse, it is going to be located close to our most successful outlet, it is undoubtedly going to have a detrimental effect on our company.

Additionally, many British people stay at "Tall Trees Campsite", so I guess we would be forced to speak English all the time, which is also great because it is surely going to help us to improve our English skills.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR FUTURE USE

FORM: WITH 'BY THE TIME'

Can use the present simple with 'by the time' to refer to the future.

Corrected Learner Examples

... by the time he gets home, he will just want to go straight to bed.

By the time you arrive the information office at the airport will be closed, as at 11.00 o'clock a full day strike will start.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

By the time he gets home, he will just want to go straight to bed.

By the time you arrive the information office at the airport will be closed as at 11.00 o'clock a full day strike will start.

Comments

Note that there aren't many time conjunctions – they are quite a closed set, but their use with the present simple for future does develop as you move up the levels.

USE: SUGGESTIONS, OBLIGATION

Can use the present simple after speech act verbs expressing suggestions and obligation.

Corrected Learner Examples

We would suggest that our management takes a closer look.

I recommend that we go to the theatre in Ginza where "Miss Saigon" is on.

Moreover, we insist that the agreement between you is legally binding

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I recommend that we go to see the theatre in Ginza where "Miss Saigon" is on.

Moreover, we insist that the agreement between you is legally binding so without the consent of United Wheat Shippers you can't release yourself from the obligations to it and my client is not going to give you such consent.

MODALITY

ADJECTIVES

FORM/USE: MODIFYING ADJECTIVES, EMPHASIS

Can modify adjectives with adverbs, often for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

It is painfully obvious that it will rescue our city from the pollution and fumes that cars are producing.

[talking about stolen goods] It is highly unlikely that the goods can vanish from your warehouse without that being noticed.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

It is painfully obvious that it will rescue our city from pollution and fumes that cars are producing.

[Talking about stolen goods] It is highly unlikely that the goods can vanish from your warehouse without being noticed.

FORM/USE: MODIFYING ADJECTIVES, HEDGING

Can modify adjectives with degree adverbs, often to make an assertion less direct.

Corrected Learner Examples

If you want to come earlier or if there's a public transport strike (which is quite probable), you will have to take a taxi.

It is almost certain that we'll have fights in the future but we will probably overcome them.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

If you want to come earlier or if there's a strike of public transport (which is quite probable) you will have to take a taxi.

It is almost certain that we'll have fights in the future but we will probably overcome them.

ADVERBS

FORM/USE: 'NOT NECESSARILY'

Can use 'not necessarily' to express a possible exception to a general perception, i.e. not in every case.

Corrected Learner Examples

As a conclusion, I want to say that while what we wear doesn't necessarily define who we are, it does play a big part in it.

This is not necessarily the way the older generation would see it though.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

As a conclusion, I want to say that, while what we wear doesn't necessarily define who we are, it does play a big part in it.

This is not necessarily the way the older generation would see it though.

FORM/USE: RESPONSE TOKENS

Can use 'not necessarily' as a short response.

Corrected Learner Examples

Presents. Strips, bows, paper-wrapping. Thinking of Christmas? Not necessarily.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Presents. Strips, bows, paper-wrapping. Thinking of Christmas? Not necessarily.

Comments

There is very little evidence of this because of the lack of spoken data.

CAN

FORM/USE: PAST NEGATIVE, DEDUCTIONS

Can use 'can't' or 'cannot have' + '-ed' to make deductions.

Corrected Learner Examples

I live with my partner and we can't have used so much electricity.

...it cannot have been such a disappointment.

The air-conditioning cannot have been working properly as the coach was too cold.

FORM: PASSIVE

Can use 'can' in passive reporting clauses in a more formal impersonal style (e.g. for reports and academic contexts), such as 'It can be said that', 'It can be argued (that)', 'It can be concluded that', 'It can be considered'. ► passives

Corrected Learner Examples

It can be argued, looking at the figures, that the company should consider withdrawing from the heater market.

Taking everything into account, it can be concluded that the current training course is very useful for our company.

As for marriage and relationships, it can be said that women who have a job, nowadays, do not quit it after marriage.

FORM: WITH ADVERBS

Can use a wide range of adverbs with 'can' in the normal mid position after the modal verb). ► adverbs

Corrected Learner Examples

Only those who live with their relatives can fully understand how essential is the role of your parents, sisters, aunts...

Miss Sylvia Ann Powers is a good friend of mine for over six years, so I can honestly say that I know her personality fairly well.

Comments

Adverb use really increases at the C levels, not in terms of the range of different adverbs but the frequency of their use.

USE: EMPHASIS

Can use expressions with 'can' or 'can't' to give focus or add emphasis, such as 'as you can see', 'I can't say', 'I can tell you that', 'as you can imagine', 'I can say that', 'I can assure you that'.

Corrected Learner Examples

So, as you can see, there are no serious consequences for us, so far.

I can't say I was very impressed with the level and the way the classes were given.

About my country, I can tell you that we went through a great number of wars in the last century...

COULD

USE: CRITICISM

Can use 'could have' + '-ed' form to express disapproval or criticism.

Corrected Learner Examples

Since your travel company chose a hotel that far from the city, I think that you could have arranged entertainment at the hotel.

? for the money they had paid, you could have given them a better service (hotel, restaurant and evening entertainment).

DARE

FORM/USE: 'I DARE SAY'

Can use the fixed expression 'I dare say' to say that something is probably true.

Corrected Learner Examples

I feel that I have a huge responsibility trying to choose only one option, but I dare say that the last option may be the best one.

I must express my concern about some facilities, like the student study centre and the canteen, which I dare say needs improvement.

Comments

See comment at B2 'affirmative'

FORM: QUESTION

Can use the question form.

Corrected Learner Examples

Dare we run the risk of even one child or adult turning to violent crime because they think it is ok?

Comments

See comment at B2 'affirmative'

USE: 'HOW DARE ...!'

Can use 'how dare ... !' to express disapproval or offense about something

Corrected Learner Examples

How dare people say that we don't practice sport!

... how dare you say that this event was a complete failure!

Comments

See comment at B2 'affirmative'

EXPRESSIONS WITH BE

FORM/USE: HEDGING

Can use 'be' + 'not' + adjective + 'that-' clause to make an assertion less direct.

Corrected Learner Examples

[talking about a town near a dump where people cannot open their windows] I am not certain that they have got used to it.

[talking about distractions while studying] It's not likely that you'll make progress.

As you can see, I'm really in favour of this plan but I'm not sure that the council has anticipated everything.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

[Talking about a town near a dump where people cannot open their windows] I am not certain that they have got used to it.

[Talking about distractions while studying] It's not likely that you'll make progress.

As you can see, I'm really in favour of this plan but I'm not sure that the council has anticipated everything.

USE: 'BE SET TO', ASSERTION

Can use 'be set to' to talk about strong assertion about the future, especially in institutional contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

The turnover of our company is set to increase dramatically after the establishment of the e-shop, which itself requires little investment.

The population of children is set to plummet to 11.5% and that of working people also to 46.2% in 2050.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

The population of children (0 to 14) is set to decrease to 37% and the population of senior citizens is set to increase to 5.7%

This report is set to compare TELECARS and STREETLIGHT CABS in order to select a proper taxi firm for our company.

Comments

This pattern is used especially in business contexts.

MAY

FORM/USE: 'MAY WELL'

Can use 'may well' to give emphasis to something unexpected.

Corrected Learner Examples

I think they may well come to an agreement on these payment problems.

In general a week's work experience is a good way for a high school student to get familiar with the world of work. It may well be that after leaving school they become our employees.

FORM/USE: PAST NEGATIVE

Can use 'may not have' + '-ed' to talk about possibility in the past.

Corrected Learner Examples

The percentage of Dutch people eating a big, hot breakfast may not have been as high as of English people, but it has certainly reduced.

Apart from the income from both partners, it helps them meet other people thereby acquiring other skills they may not have obtained by staying or working from home.

MIGHT

FORM: PAST, NEGATIVE

Can use 'might not have' + '-ed'.

Corrected Learner Examples

First of all, not 45 but only 35 stalls were promised, meaning the disappointment you mentioned might not have been as bad as you, or whoever gave you the information, thought it was.

FORM: QUESTIONS

Can use the question form.

Corrected Learner Examples

Could it be possible that your company sent me the wrong bill, or might it be the bill from the last person who lived in my house?

Might it not be a good idea to change the travel company you are working with next time?

USE: CONSOLING OR JUSTIFYING

Can use 'might' followed by 'but' to console or justify.

Corrected Learner Examples

The argument that fashion reflects people's attitudes and behaviour might sound superficial, but on closer examination it turns out to be true.

The idea of going to work-out to keep fit might be tedious sometimes but the majority of young people are interested in taking up an activity these days.

All in all, it might not have been a huge success, but people enjoyed themselves.

You might not have been able to "change the world" but maybe you have made a difference to one or two people.

USE: POLITE CRITICISM

Can use the question form to make polite criticisms and suggestions.

Corrected Learner Examples

Last but not least, might it not be wise if you had more trips ...?

Also might I suggest that we have more exiting publicity for the club?

As for the musicals running in London, might I suggest that you arrange for seats where one can both see and listen?

USE: POSSIBILITY IN THE PAST

Can use 'might not have' + '-ed' to talk about possibility with a past reference.

Corrected Learner Examples

The survey, mentioned in the local newspaper yesterday, might not have asked an accurate sample of people.

Even though things might not have gone as you expected or as you would like them to have, we have to remind you we are dealing with charity here.

NEED

FORM: PAST, NEGATIVE

Can use 'needn't have' + '-ed'.

Corrected Learner Examples

*You needn't have bought me anything!
However, you needn't have bothered so much.*

OUGHT

FORM/USE: DESIRED STATES, WITH 'THERE OUGHT TO BE'

Can use 'there ought to be' to talk about desired states of affairs.

Corrected Learner Examples

The rooms were dirty, there was no room service and there ought to be a lift since the rooms were on the 4th floor.

*... we came to the conclusion that there ought to be some changes to the club's publicity.
I think there ought to be more excursions and guided tours.*

FORM/USE: EMPHASIS, WITH 'REALLY'

Can use 'ought to' with 'really' to add emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

Moreover, you really ought to ask for details about the timetable they've set for schooling hours, just to be sure that it fits the way of studying you are accustomed to.

*This is what almost everyone thinks, but we really ought to think a little bit more about it.
One really ought to know the interests, wishes and demands of the receiver.*

FORM/USE: PAST, AFFIRMATIVE

Can use 'ought to have' + '-ed' to refer to desired states of affairs in the past.

Corrected Learner Examples

Another point, which I think ought to have been better managed, was the boat trip on the Thames.

However, the expert that I have consulted claims that this kind of polluted water is the most common consequence when placing gas stations and the government ought to have known that.

We were taken by surprise, when we didn't get a tour guide. We ought to have booked one!

Comments

No results for negative past form or ellipted past form (I didn't leave early but I ought to have.)

USE: LIKELIHOOD

Can use 'ought to' to talk about something which is likely.

Corrected Learner Examples

... the fundamental function of accounting software is to record the numerous ordinary business activities, which may improve the efficiency of the company. Besides, it ought to provide useful information in decision-making.

You ought not to be hungry.

SHALL

FORM: NEGATIVE

Can use the negative form.

Corrected Learner Examples

This way, students shall not die of boredom or feel that their stay was useless.

Secondly, supplier contracts shall not be omitted.

This is, as I mentioned in my letter, only in the event I shall not be able to pick you up at the airport.

Comments

There are only 2 occurrences of “shan’t” in the CLC, one at B1 and one at C2. Neither are great examples so we have decided not to include them. This may be a spoken language feature.

USE: COMMANDS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Can use 'shall' to express commands in very formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

We therefore need to insist that the agreement is binding and that the contract shall be fulfilled.

Comments

This form is very low frequency in both learner and native speaker data.

SHOULD

FORM/USE: AFTER 'IF' CLAUSES

Can use 'should' after 'if' to talk about possible situations in the future.

Corrected Learner Examples

If you should change your mind and prefer to take a taxi, you can do it outside the airport by calling this number: 3570.

If something should happen, call 112, the local alarm number.

FORM/USE: INVERSION

Can use 'should' with an inverted subject to refer to possible situations, in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Should you need any further information, don't hesitate to contact us.

Should you withhold any important information or documentation, this could stop any payment to you.

USED TO

FORM: QUESTIONS

Can use the question form.

Corrected Learner Examples

[talking about a change in eating habits] What did we use to eat?

Comments

Questions form generally are low frequency in the CLC as they are more common in spoken language than written.

WILL

USE: HABITUAL AND TYPICAL

Can use 'will' to talk about something which is typical or habitual.

Corrected Learner Examples

The abundance of ingredients required in any recipe will result normally in a spicy but nutritious dish, a dish that will usually contain some kind of sauce made of hot pepper, tomatoes, garlic and onion, some kind of meat and also some vegetables.

She will often knock on the door to see you.

Go to lots of beautiful places that you won't usually be able to go to with a car, such as riversides.

WOULD

FORM: WITH ADVERBS

Can use an increasing range of adverbs with 'would', including 'strongly', 'easily', 'especially', 'actually', 'absolutely', 'gladly' ► adverbs

Corrected Learner Examples

Considering the aspects of our education system, and the results of my research, I would strongly recommend the following changes to be made.

Because of her wide and excellent experience with small children I believe that Nascha would easily fit into a family with small children.

NEGATION

NEGATION

FORM/USE: 'NOT ONLY ? (BUT) ALSO' WITH INVERSION

Can use auxiliary 'do' + inverted subject after 'not only', to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Not only was it in a wonderful location, with extraordinary views, but it was also very accessible and the shops were really near.

Not only do they have the biggest turnover overall, they also managed to increase it constantly from 2000 to 2002.

FORM/USE: 'NOT' + STANCE ADVERB, HEDGING

Can use 'not' + stance adverb, often in a mid position, to soften the directness of a statement.

Corrected Learner Examples

This is not necessarily the way the older generation would see it, though.

Being a passionate student of the English language, you do not necessarily need a teacher to guide you through the meanders of English.

I'm not sure what exactly they would expect us to do at the campsite, but organising the entertainment is not really my thing.

Personally, I do not actually think that this relationship will change.

Comments

In the majority of cases, 'not necessarily' is used.

FORM/USE: 'WHATSOEVER', EMPHASIS

Can use 'whatsoever' after a negative form for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

This means that nothing shall change for the employees, there shall be no implication whatsoever for their rights stipulated in their employment contracts.

Organising the entertainment would be rather fun, whilst waiting tables would be boring and we have no experience whatsoever.

FORM: 'NONE', SUBSTITUTION

Can use negative pronoun 'none' to substitute for subject and object pronouns or noun phrases. ► pronouns: substitution

Corrected Learner Examples

In fact, there are none, but the hills that do exist can be dubbed mountains – just because there are none...

Concerning your question about any special requirements of some students – I am glad that I am able to tell you that there are none this year.

Problems when using English? None.

FORM: 'NOT ALL', 'NOT EVERY'

Can use 'not with indefinite pronouns 'everyone' and 'everything' and determiners 'every', 'all'.

Corrected Learner Examples

Not everyone likes sports or music.

Not everything was as good as we expected.

Not all students, though, can attend the centre as it is not always open, and their lessons finish at 5 pm, the closing time of the centre.

Not all of us have got the fighting spirit to visit the gym regularly, but many of us would like to have a healthy look.

Not every cyclist is a danger to the public as most of them obey all rules and respect other road users.

USE: FORMAL

Can use '(very) few' meaning 'not many' to refer to people in formal written contexts, often reports or surveys.

Corrected Learner Examples

They were sent to Britain to improve their English but few had any real contact with the language.

English is the most spoken language nowadays and although most of the people can speak a bit of English, very few speak it in the right way.

The Greeks have always been a tortured folk; everyone tried to conquer them, but few managed.

NOUNS

NOUN PHRASES

FORM/USE: 'WH-' CLEFT, FOCUS

Can form complex noun phrases with 'wh-' cleft clauses, followed by 'be', to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

What everyone loved were the special effects and we were very impressed by the use of advanced technological innovations.

What companies care about is money and football players help them to earn it.

What tourists want is to see the most typical things in England, not a hamburger restaurant.

What students learn are mostly facts and theories.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

What everyone loved were the special effects and we were very impressed by the use of advanced technological innovations.

What companies care about is money and football players help them to earn it.

What tourists want is to see the most typical things in England, not a hamburger restaurant or a London's musical in the back row in gallery.

What students learn are mostly full of facts and theories.

FORM: NOUN PHRASE WITH POSSESSIVE 'S WITHOUT NOUN

Can form complex noun phrases with noun phrase + 'of' + noun phrase + possessive determiner 's', omitting the noun where it is previously mentioned.

Corrected Learner Examples

Our after-sales team now is perceived as faster, more qualified, friendlier and more efficient than our competitors'.

You cannot have peace and quiet in your own home, as your hour of peacefulness might considerably differ from your neighbours'.

I think it would be better to include a student's view of the college, not only a teacher's.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Our after-sales team now is perceived as faster, more qualified, friendlier and more efficient than our competitors'.

You cannot have peace and quiet in your own home, as your hour of peacefulness might considerably differ from your neighbours'.

I think it would be better to include a student's view of the college, not only a teacher's.

Comments

Note that at B1, learners can use this structure deictically to refer to a place which is mutually understood ('I went to the doctor's'), whereas this can-do is about reference to something previously mentioned rather than something understood.

USE: NOMINALISATION, FORMALITY

Can use nominalised forms in academic or business contexts, to make something more formal.

Corrected Learner Examples

As indicated by the charts, the output in state-owned industry increased by 12% in 2000. With reference to foreign-invested industry, it recorded fluctuations in industrial output increases throughout three years.

It stood at 14% in 2002, then dropped by 2% in 2001. 2002 brought a significant growth in the output and recorded 19%.

We could say that things have been altered by the advances of science and culture in general, like the rest of the world.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

As indicated by the charts, the output in state-owned industry increased by 12% in 2000. With reference to foreign-invested industry, it recorded fluctuations in industrial output increases throughout three years.

It stood at 14% in 2002, then dropped by 2% in 2001. 2002 brought a significant growth in the output and recorded 19%.

We could say that things have been altered by the advances of science and culture in general, like the rest of the world.

Comments

This type of nominalised form is typical in formal contexts in CIC.

TYPES

FORM'-ING' FORMS, ABSTRACT NOUNS

Can use the '-ing' form of verbs as abstract nouns.

Corrected Learner Examples

Learning English has its rewards too.

Advertising seems to be very important to promote a new product.

Teaching is terribly challenging and demanding.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Learning English has its rewards too.

Advertising seems to be very important to promote a new product.

Teaching is terribly challenging and demanding.

UNCOUNTABLE

FORM: UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Can use a wide range of uncountable nouns, particularly referring to abstract concepts.

Corrected Learner Examples

I appreciate that your company is concerned about safety and has installed safety belts in every coach but they do not help much when they are all broken.

Above all, the administration is not very efficient.

He will go with another two members in his department who are likely to be the core workforce and who are eager to broaden their vision.

Through that we can develop more humanity, solidarity, tolerance and respect among people of different countries.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I appreciate that your company is concerned about safety and has installed safety belts in every coach but they do not help much when they all are broken.

Above all, the administration is not very efficient:

He will go with another two members in his department who are likely to be core workforce and who are eager to broaden their vision.

Through that we can develop more humanity, solidarity, tolerance and respect among the people of the different countries.

Comments

Errors increase with the most common items and with determiners, e.g. 'informations', 'transports', 'trainings', 'equipments', 'advices', 'knowledges', 'softwares', 'researches', 'furnitures', 'tuitions', 'spendings', 'accommodations', 'feedbacks', 'congestions'. Learner examples (1) 'I have knowledges of foreign languages such as English (written and spoken fluently), little knowledges of French.' (2) 'The three computers were acquired in order to replace the out-of-date equipments that were used by the General Manager.' At C2 errors decrease generally but persist with the most common items. Learner example: 'Reading these books is very interesting, as many advices are hidden inside.'

PASSIVES

GET AND HAVE

FORM/USE: 'GET' + OBJECT + '-ED'

Can use 'get' + object + '-ed' to talk about causing or instructing something to happen or to be done by somebody else, often informally.

Corrected Learner Examples

I must say that Caroline and I are good together because I think I am a little bit lazy but she is always the one who tries to get things done.

[talking about a minibus] ? ours broke down and it took hours to get it repaired.

But within the last two months we received several complaints from our customers about not getting their orders delivered in time.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I must say that Caroline and I are good together because I think I am a little bit laisy but she is always the one who tries to get things done.

[talking about a minibus] ? ours broke down and it took hours to get it repaired.

But within the last two months we received several complaints from our customers about not getting their orders delivered in time.

FORM/USE: 'GET' + OBJECT + '-ING'

Can use 'get' + object + '-ing' to talk about causing someone or something to do something.

Corrected Learner Examples

First of all, I would like to underline the sheer boredom of these CDs, which got me yawning from the very first minute.

I was very happy when I received your letter, although I must say that your dilemma got me thinking.

As soon as they realized there was no way to get the employees moving, they got excited and nervous.

But still both concerts were great as Elton John and "Metallica" really know how to get people moving, but in two completely different ways.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

First of all, I would like to underline the sheer boredom of these CDs, which got me yawning from the very first minute.

I was very happy when I received your letter, although I must say that your dilemma got me thinking.

As soon as they realized there was no way to get the employees moving, they got excited and nervous.

But still both concert were great as "Elton John and "Metallica" really know how to get people moving , but in two completely different ways.

PASSIVES: FORM

FORM/USE: NON-FINITE CLAUSES

Can use a passive non-finite '-ing' form as a subordinate clause or a noun clause to give explanatory background information.

Corrected Learner Examples

Being born and raised in Mexico, I believe her to be this country's best representative to the world.

Being overworked and badly paid, Polish women are torn between their dreams and their real possibilities.

Being invited by your boss for an unexpected lunch makes you feel noticed.

FORM/USE: PRESENT CONTINUOUS NEGATIVE

Can use the present continuous passive negative form to refer to ongoing situations in the present.

Corrected Learner Examples

In my opinion, the store is not being promoted enough.

Women are not being seen as just inferior to men and incapable of working outside the home.

Finally, I agree with the fact that mobile phones have helped the human species develop, but as long as they 're not being used in a sensible way, they're a destructive weapon against children's health.

FORM/USE: SUMMARISING, EVALUATING WITH 'IT'.

Can use the passive with 'it' as a dummy subject, to summarise or evaluate in discussions, usually in formal or academic writing.

Corrected Learner Examples

To sum up, it can be concluded that this report has attempted to summarize the main points regarding the Spanish educational system.

In addition, it has been found that some products were difficult to find.

PAST

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE

FORM/USE: INVERSION, IMAGINED PAST

Can invert the subject and affirmative auxiliary verb to talk about imagined situations in the past, often with regret, in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Had I known the tour would be so bad, I wouldn't have booked it.

Had they been new people, travellers from other countries, I could have taken it, but all the customers were English!

Sometimes I think that had I gone to Britain without this experience, my life would have been different.

PAST SIMPLE

FORM: INVERSION WITH 'NOT ONLY ? BUT ALSO'

Can use the inverted form of the past simple with auxiliary 'do', in the phrase 'not only ? but also'.

Corrected Learner Examples

The companies I found at the trade fair were very varied. Not only did I find high-technology companies, but also shoemakers, advertisement companies and plane manufacturers to name but a few.

Not only didn't we travel 5000 miles in 30 days, as you had advertised, but also we stayed 8 days in just one place, which had nothing interesting to see except a church.

Not only didn't I learn any new grammar but also I couldn't enrich my vocabulary.

FORM: QUESTIONS

Can use 'yes/no', 'wh-', tag and negative question forms with a wide range of verbs. ►

Questions

Corrected Learner Examples

Did you spot the fact that what is expected from us in Tall Trees Campsite is to help in organising the entertainment?

How did it turn out then?

I told you about Peter and Mary, didn't I?

Didn't we all dream of being famous once in our lives?

USE: COMPLEX ORDERING OF PAST EVENTS

Can use the past simple to order sequences of events in the past in a complex way.

Corrected Learner Examples

Following advice from a friend, I purchased the English version of your product, only to find out its quality did not match the promises made in your advertisement.

After having discussed this subject with the other member, we came up with the following decisions. First of all ?

USE: FOR EMPHASIS, WITH 'DID'

Can use the past simple with 'did' for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

We did reach the target figure and we have sent about 85 percent of the money to the hospital.

[in a letter defending the organisation of an event] We did have 34 games and one stall with beverages and snacks.

It is true that it did rain during the day but it was not a "sudden downpour", as you wrote. It was more a small shower ?

USE: POLITENESS: 'I THOUGHT'

Can use the past simple 'I thought' as a politeness structure to sound less direct.

Corrected Learner Examples

I understand you are quite concerned about the matter and I thought it would be a good idea to let you know what is really going on.

The reason why I'm writing to you is that I thought you might be interested in writing about a special dish from your country for the international cookbook.

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

FORM: NEGATIVE

Can use the full negative forms with a wide range of verbs, often in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Thus, you have not fulfilled your task with due care, as you have stated in your letter.

Somehow, in my country education has not evolved, although it manages to maintain some advantages.

PREPOSITIONS

PREPOSITIONS

FORM/USE: FORMAL

Can use less frequent complex prepositions, often in a more formal, literary or business context.

Corrected Learner Examples

It's unbelievable that this civilization that lived a long time ago could be so ahead of their time.

I think that the next area to develop will be the car industry, which will develop cars that are going to work by solar energy, on account of the levels of pollution in big cities.

PRESENT

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

USE: RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

Can use question forms to ask rhetorical questions.

Corrected Learner Examples

[writing about fashion] Are we becoming shallow?

Why is technology taking over our lives?

Why am I explaining all this? The only reason is that I want to show that young people are interested in sports.

Comments

Note that there is less opportunity to use rhetorical questions at FCE, as candidates don't always get an essay question. Students taking FCE are encouraged to use these in writing tasks as they are good discriminators in marking.

PRESENT SIMPLE

FORM/USE: NEGATIVE QUESTIONS, OPINION

Can use the negative question form to check opinions.

Corrected Learner Examples

Doesn't it sound fascinating?

Don't we all like presents?

Don't you think that fashion always looks funny if it is not the fashion of today?

Comments

Spoken face to face data is likely to show more examples of this form being used to clarify information.

FORM/USE: NEGATIVE QUESTIONS, PERSUASION

Can use the negative question form as a persuasion strategy.

Corrected Learner Examples

Don't you just hate taking the bus to school every morning? well I have a perfect solution for you, a great bike with good brakes, a bell and lights. it is a great bike but since I never use it I would be happy to sell it to you.

Don't you find that when you are having a shower or bath, you occasionally run out of water?

USE: REPORTING VERBS

Can use the present simple with a wide range of reporting verbs, especially in academic contexts, including 'demonstrate', 'illustrate'.

Corrected Learner Examples

The popularity of this TV game in Russia clearly demonstrates the nature of human fears and dreams.

The 2 charts illustrate the number of employees, and the trends in profit for three factories, namely the factories located in London, Leeds, and Bristol, which belong to the same company, during the year 2003.

PRONOUNS

DEMONSTRATIVES

FORM: 'THAT OF', 'THOSE OF'

Can use 'that of' and 'those of' as a possessive form, in formal and professional contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

It is widely known that the Russian educational system differs dramatically from that of the European, Asian or American countries.

The strength of our product is that it fits the customers' demands – especially those of middle-aged single consumers.

Therefore, I urge you to publish this letter and reconsider your opinions, which clearly do not reflect those of the general population.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

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Therefore, I urge you to publish this letter and reconsider your opinions, which clearly do not reflect those of the general population.

INDEFINITE – THING, –ONE, –BODY ETC

FORM/USE: 'ANYTHING', ELLIPSIS

Can use 'anything' in an ellipted clause, ('if there is anything?').

Corrected Learner Examples

Anything else you need, ask Sarah.

Anything you need in connection with my report, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Anything you want to ask me, feel free to do so.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Anything else you need, ask Sarah.

Anything you need in conection with my report, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Anything you want to aske me, feel free to do so.

FORM/USE: 'ANYTHING', FOCUS

Can use 'anything' with post-modifiers to form complex noun phrases as subjects with a singular verb, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Anything else can be attached too if needed.

Anything to show how happy you are for them will do.

Anything that puts you in contact with the English language is important.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

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Anything to show how happy you are for them will do.

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POSSESSIVE

FORM: 'OURS' AS SUBJECT

Can use the possessive pronoun 'ours', in subject position.

Corrected Learner Examples

I hope that other councils will consider improving the cyclists' cycling conditions as ours did.

Yes, of course there are much larger gardens in this area, but ours is more than four times as big as the one we had in Holland.

What is more, the manager organises excursions to London. Ours was breathtaking. We visited unbelievably interesting museums?

QUANTITY

FORM: 'NONE', SUBSTITUTION

Can use pronouns 'none' to substitute for subject and object pronouns. ► pronouns: substitution

Corrected Learner Examples

As for disadvantages, in fact, I see none.

As for social life organized by the school, there was none.

The costs saved without external consultants would be higher than the costs for this course .

Opportunity costs: None.

I started learning the language when I was seven. Problems when using English? None.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

As for disadvantages, in fact, I see none.

As for social life organized by the school there was none.

The costs saved without external consultants would be higher than the costs for this course .

Opportunity costs: None.

I started learning the language when I was seven, just step by step and since the very beginning I felt as I had an axe to grind in the subject. Problems when using English? None.

Comments

None on its own mainly occurs as a short response so we imagine it would be higher frequency in spoken data as it needs interaction. There are lots of none of examples (see determiners: quantity) but very few correct examples of None as a pronoun. Lots of error with no-one.

FORM: MODIFIED

Can modify 'few' and 'many' with 'very', 'too', 'so' as intensifiers.

Corrected Learner Examples

It was on Thursday that I realized how many children were in the centre. There were too many and the day was extremely tiring.

Almost 5000 Greeks died that night, and very few managed to survive.

In recent years, the Internet, which used to be a luxury only used by the very few who had access to it, has become a means of exchanging information.

Sure, some of the motorists changed to bicycles or to public transport – but far too few.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

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Almost 5.000 Greeks died this night, and very few managed to survive.

In the recent years, Internet, which used to be a luxury only used by the very few who had access to it, has become a means of exchanging information.

Comments

Note, 'too many', with 'many' as a pronoun exist at B2 in small numbers and many are not quite correct e.g. 'It is true that many accidents happen every day and the victims are too many.' (Greece; B2 VANTAGE; 1993; Greek; Pass)

FORM: RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Can use 'some of', 'many of' to modify relative pronouns in a relative clause.

Corrected Learner Examples

The people of his time were amazed every time they saw his new inventions, some of which were enormous.

By and large, how we eat is influenced by several factors, some of which have nothing to do with your nationality.

I am aware that you have a different view on young people's preferences, but I hope this event could give you an opportunity to see some other aspects of young people, some of whom are very active in sports in our club.

Today we continue this tradition by organising lectures and exhibitions, generally open to the public, many of which deal with Hamburg-specific issues.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

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Comments

No results for 'few of which' and 'few of whom' at C1 or C2 in CLC.

USE: FORMAL

Can use 'few', 'many', 'most', 'others' to refer to people in formal written contexts, often reports or surveys.

Corrected Learner Examples

Few people stop to think about what they are really doing, and few are motivated to work at all.

Few denied that it was one of the most thrilling and fascinating activities we tried the whole week.

Many express their satisfaction and claim to have acquired a great number of new skills.

Many say that extreme sports attract only those who are addicted to adrenaline or those who have nothing to lose.

Some of the students have a few comments. Most were concerned with the planning of the timetable and I hope there may be some changes this year.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Few people stop to think about what they are really doing, and few are motivated to work at all.

Few denied that it was one of the most thrilling and fascinating activities we tried the whole week.

Many express their satisfaction and claim to have acquired a great number of new skills which are advantageous for the work they are doing.

Many say that extreme sports attract only those who are addicted to adrenaline or those who have nothing to lose.

Some of the students have a few comments and they hoped that they can reach you. Most were concerned with the planning of the timetable and I hope there may be some changes this year.

All over the world each day many people take their driving test. Their motivation can be different. Most desire to be more mobile and free of relying on public transport.

RECIPROCAL

FORM: 'EACH ...' + 'THE OTHER(S)', AS COMPLEMENT

Can use 'each' (+ noun or pronoun) as subject followed by 'the other(s)' a complement of a preposition, to refer to two related things. ► pronouns: quantity

Corrected Learner Examples

Each person could be a help to the other.

They all seem to mean exactly the same but if you study them more carefully, you realize that each of them differs from the others in tiny details that can be relevant.

Generally speaking, each individual is different from the others.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Each person could be a help to the other.

They all seem to mean exactly the same but if you study them more carefully you realize that each of them differs from the others in tiny details that can be relevant.

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SUBJECT/ OBJECT

FORM/USE: (SUBJECT) 'IT' + PASSIVE

Can use 'it' with the passive voice where the subject is unknown or unimportant, often in formal contexts. ► passives

Corrected Learner Examples

It was considered to be the most important thing to supply every computer with Internet and E-mail access

It is hoped that this report will help the club to improve and meet the needs of the whole school.

Firstly it was highlighted that so many people take advantage of the park, but our survey clearly contradicts this view.

Comments

All the evidence for this use of 'it' + passive at B2 is with the BECV exam. Other uses of the passive with it at FCE are with a known subject. At C1 there is much more evidence in non-business exams for this use.

SUBSTITUTION, ONE, ONES, NONE

FORM: 'NONE'

Can use 'none' as a pronoun. ► determiners: quantity ► pronouns: quantity

Corrected Learner Examples

Then I searched for a Coca-Cola, but I found none.

Although I was really disappointed, I managed to keep the presence of mind and think more carefully and calmly. The result? None!

We expected a social programme but there was none.

The odd thing about snowboarding in Russia ... is that there are very few mountains. In fact, there are none.

The costs saved without external consultants would be higher than the costs for this course.

Opportunity costs: None.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

The costs saved without external consultants would be higher than the costs for this course .

Opportunity costs: None.

Comments

NB predominantly a spoken structure. No evidence of this use before C1.

QUESTIONS

ALTERNATIVES

FORM/USE: ELLIPTED MODAL, HEDGING

Can form alternative questions with two clauses and ellipsis in the second clause, often as a hedging device.

Corrected Learner Examples

Maybe you could hand out toys or show a movie?

Maybe you will be able to arrange another excursion this year or provide more time there?

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Maybe you could hand out toys or show a movie?

Maybe you will be able to arrange another excursion this year or provide more time there?

FORM/USE: STRONG ALTERNATIVE

Can form alternative questions using an extreme alternative to give greater pragmatic force.

Corrected Learner Examples

Is this new industry a blessing for the region or the exact opposite?

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Is this new industry a blessing for the region or the exact opposite?

Comments

Very low frequency.

TAGS

FORM: TAGS WITH 'THERE' + 'BE'

Can use affirmative and negative forms of question tags with 'there' + 'be'.

Corrected Learner Examples

As you put it that way, there isn't much of a difference with our time, is there?

But there is always something you can improve, isn't there?

Uncorrected Learner Examples

As you put it that way, there isn't much of a difference with our time, is there ?

But there is always something you can improve , isn't there ?

Comments

We suspect that spoken data would show this form being used at lower levels, as they can use 'there + be' at A1 and A2 levels.

WH-

USE: FOCUS

Can use 'wh-'questions as a focusing device, often in a narrative or argument.

Corrected Learner Examples

Nevertheless, we still give presents because we really want to. You can recognize them normally very fast! They are the ones which are unexpected and made with lots of love. So what makes a good present? From my point of view, the best presents are personal and fitted to the individual.

The other very serious problem in connection with cars is pollution, which is the cause of more diseases and problems than we realise at the moment. But what are the alternatives? Berlin has a well-structured and functioning subway?

Some of them are coin operated but some are magnetic-card operated. Use these coin-operated ones because to call from the other ones, you should buy a magnetic card, which is only possible in post offices. What else can I tell you? If you want anything to drink or to eat after your arrival, there are restaurants at the airport.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

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Some of them are coined-operated but some are magnetic card operated. Use rather these coined-operated ones because to call from the other ones you should buy a magnetic card what is only possible in post officies. What else can I tell you? If you want anything to drink or to eat after your arrival there are restaurants at the airport.

VERBS

PATTERNS_WITH TO AND -ING

FORM/USE: VERBS OF SENSES + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

Can use some verbs connected with the senses + direct object + infinitive without 'to' emphasising a complete action.

Corrected Learner Examples

I would like to see it develop without any pollution and without destroying the environment. Nowadays, it is very common in Argentina to hear people talk about the economic depression.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I would like to see it develop without any pollution and without destroing the environment. Nowadays, it is very common in Argentina to hear people talk about the economic depression

Comments

Note the subtle difference between the -ing and infinitive forms: e.g. I heard someone screaming and I heard someone scream. The -ing form places the speaker/writer ?inside? the action in a more involved way. The infinitive form places the speaker/writer ?outside? the action.

PHRASAL

FORM: VERB + PRONOUN + PARTICLE

Can use a wide range of phrasal verbs + object pronoun + particle.

Corrected Learner Examples

[talking about a band] I went to check them out last week and here is my review of the two concerts.

[talking about a living room] I tried to clean it up as much as possible.

[talking about setting up an office phone system] We just need a small set and a little time to fix it up.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

[talking about a band] I went to check them out last week and here is my review of the two concerts.

[talking about a living room] I tried to clean it up as much as possible.

[talking about setting an office phone system] We just need a small set and a little time to fix it up.

PHRASAL-PREPOSITIONAL

FORM: PHRASAL-PREPOSITIONAL VERB, STRANDED PREPOSITION

Can use verb + particle + preposition, where the preposition is separated from its complement. ► Prepositions

Corrected Learner Examples

Anyway, let me tell you what ideas I came up with.

Sometimes in order to feel confident and to be inspired we need a person to look up to.

This you will have to look out for.

This shows her superficiality, which Kingshaw cannot put up with.

Firstly, let me express that the situation you describe is certainly not something my client could easily put up with.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Anyway, let me tell you what ideas I came up with.

Sometimes in order to feel confidence and to be inspired we need person to look up to.

This you will have to look out for.

At Kingshaw's school the boys mock her, calling her "an old tart,, and even Charles hates her jewellery and bracelets "sliding up and down her hand,, This shows her superficiality, which Kingshaw cannot put up with.

Firstly, let me express that the situation you describe is certainly not something my client could easily put up with.

Comments

There is an increase in use of the stranded preposition at C2 but enough evidence to show the structure being used successfully at C1 in a range of clause types.